

in the modern branch of zoo-geography, which owes some of the most important modifications and generalizations to him. Lastly, it is only fair to mention that he is one of the few zoologists among his contemporaries who, from the first, embraced the doctrine of evolution according to Darwinian principles."

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*The Birds of Yorkshire.*—We are pleased to learn that arrangements have been made for the speedy resumption of the publication of Mr. W. Eagle Clarke's 'Birds of Yorkshire,' which work has partly appeared in the 'Transactions' of the Yorkshire Naturalists' Union, and "the continuation of which was interrupted by Mr. Clarke's leaving Yorkshire to settle in Edinburgh. Mr. Clarke and the Y.N.U. have now been able to secure the services of so able and competent an ornithologist as Mr. Thos. H. Nelson, M.B.O.U., of Redcar, to continue and complete the task."

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## XII.—Obituary.

DR. JOHN ANDERSON.—The death of our much esteemed friend, Dr. John Anderson, although he did little special work in Ornithology, must not pass unnoticed in the columns of 'The Ibis.' He was born in Edinburgh in 1833, and took the degree of Doctor of Medicine at the University of that city in 1861, receiving a gold medal for his thesis entitled "Observations in Zoology." His first post was that of Professor of Natural Science at the Free Church College in his native capital; but in 1864 he resigned that office and proceeded to India, having been offered the headship of a new Museum planned by the Supreme Government in order to receive the collections of the Asiatic Society of Bengal. In 1865 Dr. Anderson was appointed Superintendent of the new Museum at Calcutta; and two or three years later was also selected for the Chair of Comparative Anatomy in the Medical College of that city. Calcutta, therefore, became his headquarters for the whole of his professional career, but he took

part in several well-known missions to outlying parts of the Indian Empire. In 1868 he accompanied, as scientific officer, an expedition through Burmah into Western China, and again in 1874 he was sent in a similar capacity on a second journey of the same character, with instructions to proceed *viâ* Bhamo to Shanghai if possible. On this occasion, however, the company was attacked by the Chinese, and was obliged to retreat. The zoological results of these two expeditions were described by Dr. Anderson in a well-known quarto volume, published in London in 1878. A third, in which Dr. Anderson took a prominent part, was that sent by the Trustees of the Indian Museum in 1881 to the coasts of Lower Burmah, to investigate the zoology of the Mergui Archipelago. A list of the birds collected on that occasion was published by Dr. Anderson in the *Journal of the Linnean Society* (Zool. vol. xxi. p. 136).

In 1887, after twenty-three years' service under the Indian Government, Dr. Anderson returned home, and settled in South Kensington, where he devoted himself entirely to zoological work, and was a well-known attendant at the Royal, Geographical, Linnean, and Zoological Societies. Of the last-named he was for many years one of the Vice-Presidents. Being in delicate health, Dr. Anderson usually passed his winters in Egypt, and devoted his energies mainly to the exploration of the Fauna of that country. In 1898 he published a splendid volume on its Herpetology, and up to the time of his death was busily engaged on a corresponding work on the Egyptian Mammals. Dr. Anderson died at Buxton on the 15th of August last, at the age of 66, after a short illness. Besides the works above mentioned, he published in 1876 an excellent essay on the osteology and pterylosis of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmæus*).

The veteran Ornithologist Dr. GUSTAV HARTLAUB of Bremen (one of our Honorary Members since 1860) died at his residence in that city on the 20th of November last, at the mature age of 87. We propose to defer our remarks on his life and work until the next number.